Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1 and 8 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus having a carriage to which a head member is mounted, said carriage comprising:

a toothed belt ~~which extends~~ extending between a driving pulley and an idler pulley, ~~and to which~~ the carriage ~~is~~ being attached to said toothed belt; and

preventing means ~~having a jumping preventing surface disposed at a position where said jumping preventing surface is opposed to a back surface of said toothed belt in the vicinity of said driving pulley and adapted to prevent an~~ for preventing idle rotation of said driving pulley with respect to said toothed belt, said preventing means comprising a jumping preventing surface provided in the vicinity of said driving pulley and opposed to a back surface of said toothed belt.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving pulley is rotatingly driven by a driving motor.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said idler pulley is elastically biased by a tension spring in order to apply tension to said toothed belt.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said jumping preventing surface of said preventing means is opposed to a portion of said toothed belt to which the carriage is attached.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said jumping preventing surface of said preventing means is disposed nearest to the back surface of said toothed belt at a position where said toothed belt is engaged by said driving pulley rather than a position where said toothed belt leaves said driving pulley in a condition that said driving pulley is stopped.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said jumping preventing surface of said preventing means extends in a tangential direction of said driving pulley at a position where said jumping preventing surface of said preventing means is nearest to the back surface of said toothed belt, and said jumping preventing surface is inclined with respect to a straight run portion of said toothed belt by an angle greater than 10 degrees and smaller than 30 degrees.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a distance between said jumping preventing surface of said preventing means and the back surface of said toothed belt is selected to be in a range between 10% and 90% of a tooth height of said toothed belt.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said jumping preventing surface of said preventing means is rotatably supported for rotation around a position nearer to said driving pulley than an extension direction of said ~~idle rotation~~ jumping preventing surface of said preventing means at a side opposite to the nearest position between said driving pulley and said toothed belt.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving pulley has flanges at sides corresponding to both width-wise sides of said toothed belt, and diameters of said flanges are smaller than a height of the back surface of said toothed belt mounted around said driving pulley, and said jumping preventing surface of said preventing means approaches said toothed belt in a range where said jumping preventing surface covers said flanges at least partially.

10. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said head member comprises a recording head for effecting recording on a recording material.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said recording head is an ink jet recording head for effecting the recording by discharging ink from a discharge port.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said recording head has an electrical/thermal converter for generating thermal energy used for discharging the ink.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said recording head discharges the ink from said discharge port by utilizing film boiling caused in the ink by the thermal energy generated by said electrical/thermal converter.

14. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said head member comprises a reading head for reading information on an information holding medium.